

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/619,733

Examiner

Travis R Hunnings

Applicant(s)

EPSTEIN ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to application filed 14 July 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-10 and 12-15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 July 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Natan Epstein on Monday May 16, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

With regards to claim 1 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to the following:

"1 (currently amended). An improved doorbell installation having a ringer device connected for actuating a signaling device, the improvement comprising:

a ring frequency counter connected for disabling the signaling device upon the occurrence of a predetermined number of actuations of the signaling device within a preset first time interval, and a rest interval timer operative for re-enabling the signaling device after a preset second time interval, whereby excessively repetitive actuation of the signaling device is prevented."

With regards to claim 4 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to change the numeral '1' in line 1 of the claim to the numeral '2'.

With regards to claim 9 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to the following:

"9 (currently amended): An improved doorbell installation having a ringer device connected for actuating a signaling device, the improvement comprising:

a ring length timer connected for disabling the signaling device upon actuation thereof in excess of a preset total ringer actuation time within a preset ring time interval, and a rest interval timer operative for re-enabling the signaling device after a preset rest interval following the disabling of the signaling device, whereby excessive actuation of the signaling device is prevented."

With regards to claim 11, the claim has been cancelled.

With regards to claim 12 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to the following:

"12 (currently amended). An improved doorbell installation having a ringer device connected for actuating a signaling device, the improvement comprising:

timer means connected for disabling said signaling device responsive to a continuous actuation of said ringer device exceeding a preset continuous ring time interval and a rest interval timer operative for re-enabling the signaling device after a

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preset rest interval following the disabling of the signaling device, whereby excessive actuation of the signaling device is prevented.”

With regards to claim 13 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to the following:

“13 (currently amended). An improved doorbell installation having a ringer device connected for actuating a signaling device, the improvement comprising:

a ring frequency counter connected for disabling the signaling device upon the occurrence of a predetermined number of actuations of the ringer device within a preset first time interval, a ring length timer connected for disabling the signaling device upon actuation thereof in excess of a preset total ringer actuation time within a preset ring time interval, and a rest interval timer operative for re-enabling the signaling device after a preset second time interval following the disabling of the signaling device, whereby excessively repetitive actuation of the signaling device is prevented.”

With regards to claim 14 (currently amended), the claim has been amended to the following:

“14 (currently amended). An improved doorbell installation having a ringer device connected for actuating a signaling device, the improvement comprising:

timer and counter circuits connected for determining a total ring duration in excess of a preset total ring length within a preset base time interval and for determining a predetermined total ring actuations of the signaling device within a preset base time

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interval; and disabling the ringer device for a predetermined rest interval upon the occurrence of at least one of said predetermined total ring actuations of the signaling device within a preset base time interval and said one or more ring actuations having a total ring duration in excess of a preset total ring length.”

With regards to claim 15 (new), a new claim has been added as follows:

“15 (new). The improved doorbell installation of Claim 14 wherein one or more of said predetermined base timer interval, said total ring duration and said predetermined total ring actuations are adjustable.”

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

With regards to independent claims 1, 9, 12, 13 and 14, the prior art does not disclose nor suggest a doorbell device that includes either timer or counter means or both that are operable to disable the doorbell ringing device after a predetermined number of doorbell rings in a preset time period or a total length of doorbell rings in a preset time period.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Housley, USP 4,868,540

Housley, USP 5,210,520

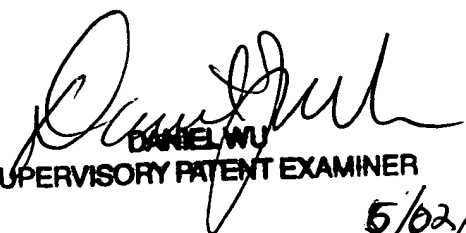
Housley, USP 5,774,039

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis R Hunnings whose telephone number is (571) 272-3118. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J Wu can be reached on (571) 272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TRH


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
5/02/05